

ORIGINAL

Dr-99-25

From: mattie hagedorn <mattie@valise.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 1999 12:38 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by mattie hagedorn (mattie@valise.com)
on Tuesday, July 20, 1999 at 23:38:55

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

address: 30 millay pl.

city: mill valley

state: ca

zip: 94941

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

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Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad

citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.
6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
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10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.
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expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair:
Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting
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Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
Ellen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Mark Partridge Miner <Mackvfire@aol.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 24, 1999 10:23 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Mark Partridge Miner (Mackvfire@aol.com)
on Saturday, July 24, 1999 at 09:23:01

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I most definately support the creation of an LPFM radio system in the United States

address: 1740 Roseberry Cove

city: Collierville

state: TN

zip: 38017

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
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Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights
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Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
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Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV
Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley
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Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
Ellen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press

Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Curtis Wilcox <cwcx@mail.rochester.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 1999 1:18 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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This email was submitted by Curtis Wilcox (cwcx@mail.rochester.edu)
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 00:18:10

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I agree with the contents of the above letter and have my own thoughts on the subject.

School radio stations have clearly demonstrated their quality, educational value, and benefit to the community. Microradio licenses could allow many more schools to have stations because of the much lower cost. They could also allow larger schools to operate multiple stations, thereby increasing opportunities to participate by students and provide more options in programming.

This letter mentions the value of microradio to reach and give a voice to poor people. I believe that they could also foster greater understanding of the thoughts and experiences of the poor by those who are better off. Radio can reach those who are not moved enough to seek out these less heard voices to not only highlight the problems but also the commonalities between classes.

Religious programming on radio and television is found nationwide but little variety is found within this "format." Microradio could serve as a venue not just for non-Christian religions and Christian denominations but for different points of view regarding faith and morality. For example I am thinking about programming which is more about tolerance and acceptance than judgement and damnation.

As a computer professional I recognize the Internet's potential to achieve these goals and many more. However I also recognize the real and lasting barriers to entry to the Internet. I would also find unacceptable an attitude which led to the public's airwaves being solely exploited for profit and any other needs of communities being left to the Internet.

address: 26 Gibbs St

city: Rochester

state: NY

zip: 14604

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
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cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

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Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

From: Jeffrey A. Beam <horsebass@bbs2.rmrc.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 24, 1999 10:29 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

DK-99-25
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This email was submitted by Jeffrey A. Beam (horsebass@bbs2.rmrc.net)
 on Saturday, July 24, 1999 at 09:29:33

JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I am afforded the luxury of being able to listen to FM radio all day at work. I am continually frustrated with the cookiecutter approach to programming used by corporations such as Jcor and Chancellor. Commercial radio is dull, very predictable, and virtually devoid of listener input. In the case of talk radio, NPR is the only oasis in the FM desert but, falls short because it is not local. Microradio could be an excellent way to provide real variety in the listening arts and a convenient, local public forum.

address: 28317 Parkwood

city: Willowick

state: Oh.

zip: 44095

Submit: Send to FCC

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

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Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Jennifer J. Nelson <jenifgr@hotmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 26, 1999 3:46 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Jennifer J. Nelson (jenifgr@hotmail.com)
on Monday, July 26, 1999 at 02:46:14

address: 18 16th Avenue North

city: St.Cloud

state: MN

zip: 56303

Submit: Send to FCC

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

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One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

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Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad

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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Anthony Kalar <papajmama@yahoo.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 24, 1999 11:50 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Anthony Kalar (papajmama@yahoo.com)
 on Saturday, July 24, 1999 at 10:50:45

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JUL 30 1999

comments: New low-power FM stations will give a much-needed facelift to radio broadcast diversity in the U.S. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Such operations are completely within the vision of the founding fathers of our country. It would be refreshing to travel across our land and hear local voices again. It would be wonderful to hear more diversity in the kinds of music being aired. And it would be wonderful to hear information and discussion on issues that are not prohibited by advertising considerations. If adopted, this regulation would do for broadcasting what the Internet has done for wired communication... open up a world of new relationships and new communications.

address: 722 West College Drive

city: Brainerd

state: MN

zip: 56401

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani
 Commissioner Michael Powell
 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

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 The Portals
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
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